

18 July 1969

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Implications of a New Soviet Naval Missile System

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] the Soviets are working on a new naval ballistic missile with more than twice the range of any they now possess. If such a missile is developed and deployed, it would significantly enhance the USSR's ability to circumvent present US ASW capabilities.

2. Deployment of [REDACTED] range SLBM would enable the Soviets to broaden their patrol areas and target assignments. [REDACTED]

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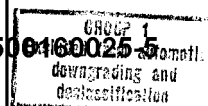
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[REDACTED] Patrol areas closer to the USSR would reduce submarine transit times and enable a larger percentage of the Soviet missile submarine force to be maintained on station at any one time.

4. Although patrol areas closer to the USSR would reduce the number of submarines needed to maintain a given on-station force, it is hard to tell whether such considerations would significantly reduce the Soviet force goal for ballistic missile

NRO REVIEW  
COMPLETED

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submarines. The Soviets probably want to be able to confront the US with a threat roughly comparable to that which the US Polaris force presents to the USSR in numbers of ships and launchers.

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